

McGeeney, Kristen R (DRL)**RELEASED IN FULL**

From: Robinson, John G(Main State)
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 6:17 PM
To: Noyes, Julieta V (DRL); Eldridge, Jennifer A
Subject: FW: Press statement by Mr. Coelho

D8

From: Davidson, Terry R
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 6:14 PM
To: Robinson, John G; Volker, Kurt D; Fried, Daniel; EUR-PPD-Dirs; Papazian, Elaine S; Padmanabhan, Vijay M; Bellinger, John B (Legal)
Subject: RE: Press statement by Mr. Coelho

The statement did feed this Reuters piece... if it doesn't get more resonance, perhaps we can share more broadly with posts, asking them to share with those most focused on topic. Terry

Europeans knew of CIA flights: US officials

6 minutes ago

A wave of CIA flights that secretly transferred terrorist suspects across Europe could only have been carried out with the knowledge of host nations, EU investigators on Wednesday quoted U.S. officials as saying.

Up to 50 people were moved across the continent to jails in third countries where they faced torture and other abuses, officials from a European Parliament probe into the flights, known as renditions, told a news conference.

"All the people we met (in the United States) suggested or confirmed that the program of renditions in Europe could not have been carried out without the knowledge and support of the governments," said Carlos Coelho, a Portuguese member of the European Parliament commission probing the flights.

"Officials from the State Department told us, in more diplomatic terms, that the United States had never violated the sovereignty of European Union member states.

"Others admitted the European governments' involvement more directly," said Coelho of meetings during the commission's trip to the United States from May 8 to 12.

Fellow investigator Claudio Fava of Italy said 30 to 50 people had been handed over by the United States since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States and the launch of the U.S.-led war on terrorism.

"We also have confirmation from a reliable source within the CIA that the sequestration of Abu Omar in Milan could not have happened without the knowledge of the Italian intelligence services," Fava said.

Italian and German prosecutors are investigating the case of Omar, an Egyptian man they believe was snatched on a Milan street by a team of CIA agents in February 2003 and flown via Germany to Egypt, where he later said he was tortured.

A German national, Khaled el-Masri, is suing the former head of the CIA over his alleged rendition from Macedonia to Afghanistan, where he says the United States held him in jail for months as a terrorist suspect in 2004. German prosecutors are also probing that case.

Sweden's parliamentary ombudsman has criticized the security services over the expulsion of two Egyptian terrorism suspects

1/2/2008

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 14 JAN 2009 200706444

UNCLASSIFIED

who were handed over to U.S. agents and flown home aboard a U.S. government-leased plane in 2001.

Dick Marty, a Swiss investigator from the Council of Europe human rights watchdog which is separately probing the renditions, has branded the transfers as "outsourcing of torture."

Copyright © 2006 Reuters Limited.

Terry Davidson

Division Chief, Press and Outreach
Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs
Room 4515, HST
Department of State
202-647-6291

From: Robinson, John G
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 6:06 PM
To: Volker, Kurt D; Davidson, Terry R; Fried, Daniel
Subject: FW: Press statement by Mr. Coelho
Importance: High

FYI -- this has been forwarded to L...

From: Telmo.Baltazar@cec.eu.int [mailto:Telmo.Baltazar@cec.eu.int]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 3:05 PM
To: Nardi, Alessandro P; Robinson, John G
Cc: Propp, Kenneth R
Subject: Press statement by Mr. Coelho
Importance: High

Dear Colleagues,

Could you please forward this message to the office Mr. John Bellinger? This is a copy of the statement made earlier today in Strasbourg by Member of European Parliament Carlos Coelho - chairman of the temporary committee of the EP that was in Washington last week.

Mr. Coelho told Mr. Bellinger that he would give him a copy of it.

Thank you very much.

Regards,

Telmo Baltazar

Telmo Baltazar
Justice and Home Affairs Counselor
European Union - Delegation of the European Commission in Washington, DC
Telephone +1 - 202-862-9528 Fax +1 - 202-429-1766
2300 M Street, NW, Suite #300, Washington, DC 20037-1434 - USA

Disclaimer required under the terms and conditions of use of the Internet and electronic mail from Commission equipment: "the views expressed are purely those of the writer and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission." If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender by e-mail or phone (+1-202-862-9528) and then delete this message. Thank you.

1/2/2008